

STUART FAVORS BETTER SALARIES

Russell County Man Says Simple Justice Demands More Money for Teachers.

CLASSROOM TO PRESIDENCY

Saunders Tells How Instructors Are Advancing—State Teachers' Meeting.

As the resources and material prosperity of the State increase, more ample provision should be made for adequate compensation for the teachers in the public schools. This position was taken yesterday afternoon by Henry C. Stuart, of Russell, in an address before the opening meeting of the State Teachers' Association, in the auditorium of the John Marshall High School.

"It is all very well to say that the work of the teachers is a lasting monument to their memory," said Mr. Stuart. "But I think most of them would appreciate some little thought and care and justice before their demise."

Considering the preparation required, and the talent employed, the teachers are less amply compensated than any other public servants."

Make Them Welcome.

Mr. Stuart was also inclined to think that the right sort of feeling toward a teacher who comes into a community is not always shown. It was so, he said, in his own part of the State. Often there is a reluctance to take the young girl to board, or to extend her courtesies, or to show her that he is welcome and is to be a part of the community life. But, on the whole, he was glad to say that many of the most desirable kind of teachers have come to the Southwest, and most of them have remained there to become permanent residents.

"One should have a speech," he said, "for all occasions, but I have no educational speech. I hope that the next time I am called on to do so, I shall have an appropriate speech already memorized." The teachers gave Mr. Stuart a good reception.

Teacher Becomes President.

The annual meeting of the State Teachers' Association was called to order at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the main auditorium, by President J. P. McConnell, of Radford. He first presented Joseph H. Saunders, of this city, who delivered the address of welcome. "The teacher," said Mr. Saunders, "is coming into his own. This is shown by the fact that within a short time a distinguished teacher is to step almost from the classroom into the presidential chair of the greatest nation on earth."

The response to the welcome was by W. H. Keister, of Harrisonburg, a former president, who is well known and liked by all the instructors. They heard him with pleasure talk about the meetings in Richmond. He advised

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ated travel for the teacher, as far as possible—supporting such an inexpensive trip as to Richmond, Williamsburg, Newport News, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Cape Henry, and by boat to Washington.

Obligations of Teachers.

Miss Frankie Dunn, principal of the high school at Greve, discussed the Teacher and Her Pupils. She talked of the many ways in which the teacher's duties are brought to light, including peculiarities developed in the individual. She was followed by J. B. Hunter, professor of secondary education in Emory and Henry College. He chose for his subject "The Teacher and His Intramural Obligations." His address was carefully prepared, and a most illuminating discussion of the duties which the teacher owes to the community and to every force outside of the walls of her schoolroom.

The address of Mr. Stuart, closed the session. Dr. J. P. McConnell, of Radford, of Ohio, who was to have spoken on school peace league work, was unable to come.

SUPERINTENDENTS WOULD NOT SPELL

Sidestep Old-Time Bee—Committee Will Revise Present Course of Study.

For a time it seemed that a regular spelling bee was to be pulled off yesterday afternoon at the meeting of the Conference of Division Superintendents, in room 307 of the John Marshall High School. A challenge was laughingly made for a real test of what the men who direct the schools really know about spelling. But the superintendents would not meet it.

The subject of spelling was on the program, and was discussed by Superintendent J. M. Beckham, of Culpeper County; Superintendent W. W. White, of Southampton County; Superintendent G. G. Joyner, of Accomac County; R. C. Stearnes, secretary to the State Board of Education; Superintendent H. W. Fugate, of Russell; R. A. Doble, of Norfolk; J. G. Johnson, of Charlottesville; W. Woodwards, of Sussex; and C. B. Bowry, Amelia.

Temporary Chairman Frank T. West, of Louisa, who presided most of the session because Superintendent Eggleston's presence was demanded elsewhere, suggested that the most practical way to meet the matter was to hold the meeting into a spelling bee, but to give out the words, and the other superintendents to do the spelling. This reminder of youthful days was greatly enjoyed.

Superintendent E. L. Darst, of Pulaski, suggested that the body be divided into two sections—the first of those who left school more than fifteen years ago, and those of more recent days. These remarks were much enjoyed, but the superintendents declined to do any spelling.

Mr. Eggleston addressed the conference on the general subject of school advancement. Superintendent J. P. McConnell, of Harrisonburg, stressed writing, and discussion of this branch followed.

On motion of Superintendent Bowry, it was decided that a committee be appointed to revise the course of study. R. C. Stearnes, who is secretary of the conference, seconded this in a very hearty endorsement of the need of revision. The committee will be announced later.

Waste in education was discussed by Superintendent Jones, of Buckingham; Superintendent G. G. Joyner, of Accomac; and Superintendent E. C. Glass, of Lynchburg.

MERRIMAN GIVES BOND

Released yesterday on \$1000 Bail for a trial by Jury, was a man named Merriman, who was charged with the murder of a child. The case was heard in the Circuit Court yesterday morning. The jury returned a verdict of guilty. The man was sentenced to the State Prison for life.

COMMON HONESTY NEED OF COLLEGES

Dr. Babcock Says Many of Them Get Money Under False Pretenses.

Honesty in college catalogues is a rare virtue, and the quality of Common Honesty (spelt with capitals) would be a most valuable factor in solving the problem of uniform valuations of high school units in computing standings of students. These rather plain terms were employed by Dr. Kendrick C. Babcock, of the United States Bureau of Education, in an address yesterday afternoon before the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of Virginia, one of the bodies of the Virginia Educational Conference. The association met in the music room of the John Marshall High School.

Not long ago, said Dr. Babcock, he was with Dr. Butler, of the General Education Board, and they went into the catalogue room, where are the announcements of the educational institutions of the country. "When I am in here," said Dr. Butler, "I feel as though I were with the father of lies."

Dr. Babcock frankly said he could not make head nor tail of some catalogues. He thought they should be made sufficiently full to be honest and to say just what the student would get there. Not that it should show necessarily the exact number of hours given to a certain study or how many books of Caesar will be read in a session, but that the catalogues should indicate the driving power of the school—the spirit behind it.

Becoming still plainer in his remarks, Dr. Babcock said that there are schools which take the students and their money on what amounts to false pretenses. Their announcements show them, he said, to be models of religious fervor and scholastic accomplishment, but what the public wants to know, or ought to want to know, is just what goods will be delivered for the cash. "In California," he said, "we used to think we had a monopoly of superlatives in describing ourselves and our possessions, but an examination of modern college catalogues would easily convince me that there are superlatives elsewhere. I cannot see things just as they look to the president on commencement day."

Dr. Babcock's subject was "Uniform Valuation of High School Units for College Entrance." He was introduced by Dr. Charles G. Maphis, of the University of Virginia, president of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Medical Schools on Move.

Dr. Babcock predicted that medical colleges, which have shown such an advance in recent years, will soon move a step higher, and those in Class A, not content with a high school diploma representing fourteen Carnegie units, would demand also one year of standard college work, including biology.

"The mortality among freshmen," he

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said, jocosely, "Is alarming. It takes half of the freshman years to find out what the man really knows, and so much time and effort is wasted in sifting out what should be done before the year begins. It could all be simplified by a uniform valuation of units."

He spoke of some Virginia schools, reports of whose work were in his hands. Selecting the Petersburg High School, he said that the volume of study indicated was alarming, there being an overplus of units. If all is really given, he would be reminded of the man who said, after hearing a rival sermon, "Turn out punishment! No man has got a constitution that can stand it!"

In addition to common honesty, Dr. Babcock thought remedies would lie in a rigid observance of the rule of proportion and in complete publicity. He commended the Louisiana State University, which has the nerve to publish the exact amount of credit really earned by each of its students. He would have a standard which would mean what it said and which would be interstate currency.

Dr. Maphis read his annual report as the Virginia representative of the Southern Commission on Accredited Schools.

HEALTH EXHIBIT

State Department Presents Valuable Educational Information to Teachers.

Room 113 of the John Marshall High School is devoted to an exhibit placed there by the State Health Department. All about the walls are hung striking placards and pictures, intended to give the teachers in attendance at the Virginia Educational Conference an idea of the work in behalf of public health which is being carried on in Virginia.

There are object lessons in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis, in the prevention of diphtheria, in rural sanitation as applied to the war for the extermination of typhoid, and in hookworm and to diseases of children. The property of the State is helped by the exhibit of the Richmond Health Department, which is added.

AGRICULTURE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

High Schools Should Prepare for Blacksburg—Predicts Compulsory Education.

Agricultural instruction to the extent of teaching nature and nature's laws can be begun in the primary schools, and continued through the grammar grades, leading up, if desired, to courses in agricultural high schools, and to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. This suggestion was made yesterday by Hon. George C. Round, of Manassas, in the meeting of the School Trustees Association, held in the John Marshall High School. It was gratifying to note that so many trustees were on hand that a move had to be made from the room originally assigned in the John Marshall High School.

Mr. Round's topic was "Agriculture in the Public Schools." He outlined the history of the agricultural high schools now in existence, one in each of the ten congressional districts of the State, and thought they should be made preparatory schools for Blacksburg, referred also to the establishment of industrial departments in the State normal schools. Personal impressions were given from his observation of the high school at Manassas, within sight of his own home.

The State Agricultural College, at Blacksburg, said Mr. Round, will never reach its full measure of usefulness until it is co-ordinated with the public school system.

Professor W. H. Whiting, Jr., of Hampden-Sydney College, president of the School Trustees' Association, presided over the meeting. W. B. Dougherty, of Norfolk, acted as secretary. The chair appointed the following committees: On legislation—Jackson, Fairfax, Glenn, of Pulaski; Hunt, of Portsmouth; On nominations—M. F. McGhee, of Charlotte; F. T. Briggs, of Portsmouth; G. W. Zachary, of Alexandria.

Compulsory Education Predicted.

Dr. J. L. Royster, of Norfolk, spoke on "Medical Inspection of Schools in the Community." He described the classes of children needing attention of medical inspectors, and dwelt on the necessity of a physical basis for the intellectual and moral welfare of the child. The eyes and ears of children, he said, should be given special attention. He prophesied that within ten years Virginia will adopt compulsory school and medical inspection.

Professor H. F. Button, of the agricultural high school at Manassas, spoke of the teachings of agriculture in schools. He gave particular commendation to the educational value of corn clubs, canning clubs, and such organizations where the learning is done through practical application.

A simple plan of grouping agricultural instruction about four general topics was outlined by Professor Button. He would first take corn as a field crop; second, apples as a fruit crop; third, animal breeds and computing rations; fourth, milk testing and its sanitary care. He urged that the trustees require all country school teachers to secure agricultural training at the University of Virginia Summer School.

This subject was also discussed by Mr. Whitehead, of Amherst, and Mr. Hooker, of Prince William.

The association decided to invite the trustees of State schools to become members of the body.

KINDERGARTNERS MEET

Teachers of Very Young Enjoy Reception at Mechanics Institute.

The very beginnings of education outside the home were under discussion yesterday afternoon at the annual meeting of the Virginia Kindergarten Union, held in Room 263, John Marshall High School. Miss Laura E. Colwell, principal of the Richmond Training school for Kindergartners and president of the union, was in the chair, and welcomed such primary teachers as were present.

"Art in the Kindergarten" was treated by Miss Mary Garland Todd, of this city. Everybody who works with head, heart and hand, she said, is an artist. Anything that is done in the best possible way is beauty. She emphasized the importance of good pictures with correct color combination, and of good music—not ragtime.

Miss Grace E. Mix, of Farmville, talked of the Montessori method in the kindergarten. She believed there must be something in it; that it could not be a mere fad. After all, Montessori's method was self-direction.

The following papers were read: "Kindergarten as a Developer of Initiative," by Miss Elizabeth T. Pickett,

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of Norfolk; "What is Kindergarten Freedom?" by Miss Laura E. Whitney, of Danville; "Kindergarten in the Community," by Miss Nancy E. Carrington, of Lynchburg.

At 5 o'clock the union adjourned to witness kindergarten games at the Virginia Mechanics Institute. One hour later there was a reception in the same building to visiting kindergartners and first grade teachers, by the Richmond Training School for Kindergartners and its Alumnae Association.

Conference Notes.

Those attending the conference should watch the schedule of meetings as printed in The Times-Dispatch, since there are many changes from the list as published in the conference handbook.

It is announced that Bristow Adams, of Washington, will deliver an address before the Department of Teachers of Geography to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock, in Room 218, on "The Influence of the Appalachian National Forest."

A meeting of the Virginia School Peace League has been called for tomorrow afternoon at 5 o'clock, in Room 104.

Visitors who desire to examine the departments of manual training, domestic arts and mechanical drawing of the John Marshall High School may apply at registration office, Room 115, where an attendant will be sent to explain them.

There are so many delegates here from the Ninth Congressional District that the district meeting this morning has been moved to the gymnasium. For the same reason, the School Trustees' Association will meet this morning at the Virginia Mechanics Institute.

SCHOOLS MUST BE HITCHED TO COMMUNITY LIFE

(Continued From First Page.)

tendents declines to be put on trial and to hold a spelling bee on the spot. The whole matter caused a great deal of fun.

Meet in Lynchburg.

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Lynchburg that the Virginia Educational Conference held its next annual meeting in the city was indicated by the State Teachers' Association, and this will give great weight to the executive committee of the entire conference, when that body convenes in next spring. It is practically certain that the Hill City will get the next conference.

The Virginia Kindergarten Union also had its meeting yesterday, and enjoyed a reception at the Virginia Mechanics Institute. The department of music met, as did the Alumnae Association of the Peabody College for Teachers.

The First Big Meeting.

The first general meeting was held last night in the auditorium of the John Marshall High School. The hall was well filled. The stage was decorated with palms, potted plants and autumn leaves. State Superintendent J. D. Eggleston, ex officio president of the Conference of Division Superintendents, under whose auspices the general meeting was held, had succeeded in inducing Kessner's indefatigable orchestra to stop playing, he called the meeting to order.

City Attorney Henry R. Pollard delivered the address of welcome on the part of the city. He traced the revolutions in educational methods and policies, contrasting conditions just after the Revolution with those of today. He said that of no less importance than the principle of general public education itself is the necessity that teachers shall be taught to teach. "Can the blind lead the blind?" he asked. "Can a teacher teach who has not been taught to teach?"

Eliminate Politics.

When a member of the Legislature a quarter century ago, said Mr. Pollard, he offered a bill and had it passed without a word of criticism. There was no deal of criticism of the schools in this day, he said, most of it destructive and not constructive. But they must be an adjunct to the life of the community. He told of a learned man who could not say what a learned man was, while an ignorant negro farmer, in Georgia, answered intricate problems in seconds which took his questioners days to figure out. He wanted to know which was educated.

"In 1850," said Dr. Chandler, "the University of Virginia was the equal if not the superior of any institution of learning in America. To-day it is still unequalled in its academic department. But does it reach out to the life of the people as does the University of Wisconsin, which practically controls agricultural effort in that State? What I say of the University I say also of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and our other educational forces. We must make the school an adjunct to the life of the community."

Educate for Service.

Dr. Kendrick C. Babcock followed very much along the same line. More than efficiency, he argued, is needed for an educated racial is certainly not an aspect. There must not only be service but contributory service.

Differing in degree from some of those who argue critically, Dr. Babcock does not think it necessary that the boys on the farm shall be kept there, for we are a mobile people, and oftentimes there is a long distance call for duty elsewhere. Nor does he think that the country teachers should be made entirely teachers of agriculture or the city school people teachers of carpentry and domestic arts.

Arithmetic, for instance, is regarded as a sine qua non of education. Yet he said, it might be largely useless or nonadaptable. It must be hitched up to the life of the individual. He told of his experience in making a geography in Arizona. It obviously would not do to use those in vogue in other places, for while it sometimes rains in Arizona, it does not do so according to standard geographies. The rivers there often run under the sand, reversing the rules of old. Mesquite had to be substituted for willows. They don't have snow storms, but they do have dust storms. So the geographies were hitched up to the situation.

Such is the solution of educational problems of the present.

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